

## The Judgment of Nadab and Adihu (Leviticus 10:1-3)

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The Judgment of Nadab & Abihu (Lev 10:1-3)

Several years ago, my Dad gave me a box full of tape from years ago. There were mostly of church services that we attended. Friday I pulled one out from the mid 80's from Battlefield Baptist Church. Bro James Langston preaching. And all he said here is this was the first time since then that I actually sat down to listen to one of his messages because what I thought of him at that time was that he did a lot of hooping and hollaring a lot of mind sucking and screaming on never said anything. I just didn't get anything he was saying. I put that tape in and I could believe my ears. He preached a gospel message on the pearl of great price, that was outlined from beginning to end, that I could follow. Why didn't I remember that. I know I was there, I heard my daddy saying "amen". The problem wasn't with him but with me. I was privileged to sit under God honoring sound preaching and yet it was going in one ear and out the other and in the end I said well thank you I'll go my own way. Graciously God raised me to my

I. They were Favored in Their Advantages -

These sons of Aaron were not disadvantaged children, ignorant of the things of God. No God had shown gracious favor toward

these boys, God had given them every advantage <sup>where</sup>

A. They were Advantaged by their Relations <sup>VSI</sup>

They had a godly family. Their father was Aaron the High Priest of God. They watched him carry out his priestly duties. They saw the godly life that he lived before the Lord. They were also the nephews of Moses, the Law giver. Moses, the one who relayed the words of God to his people. You can't tell me that when the people of God were assembled they were in the back of the crowd. No as sons of Aaron they were no more than a few feet away. Many of you have grown or are growing up in a godly home...

B. They were Advantaged by their Revelations

These boys were privileged to hear and see many revelations from God that others were not privy to. In Ex. 24 these sons of Aaron were invited by name to come up to the Lord and in vs 9-10, these two saw the God of Israel. They weren't outsiders, but were on the inside as far as the revelation of God's word. Could it be that they were taught the scripture by the very hand that wrote them. Their father the very first priest, taught them step by step <sup>(4)</sup> god pleasing practices and procedures for proper priestly duties.

II. They were Flawed in their Assumption - But despite all of their advantages concerning the truth of God, they assumed that they could do things their own way. In their



1) ...roused me to my senses and turned to Christ and he saved me, but I was quickly heading to judgment doing things my own way. This kind of willful attitude is clearly illustrated in the account of Nadab and Abihu. I want us to look at this story and think about the fact that spiritual privileges do not always equal spiritual lives in the sight of God. Every person in here today is vulnerable of falling into the same judgment that Nadab and Abihu experienced here in Leviticus Ch. 10.

2) ...every advantage whereby they might please him.

3) ...in a godly Christian home. You have a mom and dad that love and serve God. They live a godly life before you. They bring you to the house of God whenever the doors are open and worship God when they are there. These are gracious advantages that God has given you. Don't waste them!!!

4) ...for proper priestly duties. What revelations have you been advantaged to have sitting on the pews of this church or sitting at the table of your parents. The word of God is readily available. Your pastor has emphasized over and over the god pleasing way of salvation, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Advantage after advantage just like Nadab and Abihu!

1) ...roused me to my senses and turned to Christ and he saved me, but I was quickly heading to judgment doing things my own way. This kind of willful attitude is clearly

1) ...just as suitable as my dad. I've heard it time and time again what I ask folks about their salvation. My daddy, my grandpa, my Uncle was a preacher! Oh I'm a member at such and such church. I'm a deacon, I'm a Sunday School teacher, I'm a choir member. It is a flawed assumption to think that your advantage, position or credibility is suitable in approving you to God.

2) ...This fire from God was to be kept perpetually burning. As the children of Israel traveled through the wilderness, the embers of that very same fire from God were kept burning night and day. But to these boys, fire is fire. The application to all here today is not to be inventive when it comes to approaching God. Don't get creative by saying, I'm a good person. I do a lot of good things. Don't offer the strange fire of religion is religion. It doesn't matter what way you come to God, all roads lead to God. If your approach to God is not my the fires of God's sacrifice for sin, the cross of Jesus Christ, it is a flawed assumption!!

3) ...it doesn't matter the reason we are performing the ritual. Vs. 9-10 deal with the priest and strong drink, which indicates that alcohol may have been involved with this incident. Let me remind you, there is no reason other than self-will and selfish flesh pleasing for a person that claims to be a child of God to drink alcohol. That's what these boys were they were filled with self indulgence and pride and did not sanctify God in their hearts! God looks on your heart! Not your outward activities but your inward motivations.

self will pride they made some Flawed Assumption

A. They assumed their Credibility was Suitable

Vs. 1 we find these sons of Aaron going in to burn incense before the Lord. That seems harmless enough. But Ex 30: 7-10 specifically

states the Aaron was to offer the incenses, Can you hear these boys, My dad is the High priest, surely I am allowed to do what he does. Surely I am just as suitable as my dad. ①

B. They Assumed their Creativity was sufficient

Nadab + Abihu decided that they would try to be creative with their worship. Instead of using the anointed consecrated vessels of tabernacle, they used their own. Vs. 1. They also offered strange

fire. In the previous chapter fire came from the Lord and consumed the sacrifices. Not just any old camp fire flames. But fire from God. This fire

C. They Assumed their Consecration was Insignificant

Vs 3. Immediately after the consequences of their actions, the Lord said, "I will be..."

Evidently in Nadab and Abihu the Lord had no place for God. The Lord was not set apart and feared by them. Their thought was as long as we just perform the duties we are ok,

As long as we put on a show it doesn't matter ③

III. They were Fatal in Their Attempt - Vs 2

They were hap-hazardly going through some ritual some form, when all of a sudden they encountered the judgment of



God. When they least expected it their strange fire was  
A. That which they Claimed, Consumed Them -

Notice No 2, "fire from the Lord" if you would  
have asked them that day who they claimed  
to be, they would have claimed to be  
priests of the Lord. They would have claimed  
to be a part of the covenant people of God.  
They would have claimed Jehovah as  
their God whom they were attempting to  
at that very moment. Yet the very God they  
claimed, consumed them. My greatest fear  
would be that you would sit here Sunday + Wed off  
or Sunday + Wed, playing the game + doing the dance + when

B. That which they Duplicated, Devoured Them

This is the most haunting thought  
that drove me to preach this message.  
That which they Duplicated, devoured. They  
tried to duplicate the fire of God and God  
devoured them with the true fire of God. A  
lot of people try to duplicate the blood  
brought, born again life of a believer. Yet  
they have never turned to Christ in repentance  
and faith, that blood has never been applied  
therefore they are vulnerable to the judgment  
fires of God. Bible commentator Clark -

IV. Closing - Here I am now in the very same  
position, that James Langston was when I was a  
child, hoping and praying that the message gets  
through, praying that you will listen and not be driven  
③

- 1) ...doing the dance and when the day of Judgment came when you least expected it... fire from the Lord! Will your words be that of **Matthew 7:22-23** ...*Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.* Remember “ *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*
- 2) Clarke - The Lord is a consuming fire! He will either hallow or destroy us: he will purify our souls by the influence of his Spirit, or consume them with the breath of his mouth!
- 3) ...and not be deceived into thinking that as long as I can look the part, play the game, put on the show, that I'll be alright. No Sanctify God in your heart! No matter what godly heritage or revelations you have been exposed to, you are a sinner in need of a Saviour. You must repent! And believe the gospel, that Christ died in your place, he died for your sins. Don't walk through life holding on to a false fire, in the end you will be devoured by the true fire of God